

PTDT

PhiloTorah D'var Torah

Yaakov couldn't, but we can ... and do!

When Yaakov Avinu was on his deathbed, he gathered his children with intention of telling them what would happen in the end of days. Certainly, when their 'stay' in Egypt would end.

And he was not permitted by HKB"H to reveal that information to his children; instead, he blessed them.

When we relive the Egyptian experience and our emergence from AVDUT (slavery and oppression) to CHEIRUT (freedom), we start with AVADIM HAYINU... and progress to the Exodus, and then continue beyond that to the Geula of the future.

Technically, the Pesach Seder is for telling and personalizing and reliving the Exodus.

But it continues beyond that, in a number of places. Dayeinu is a good example. It starts out with being thankful to HaShem for being taken out of Egypt, proceeds to the Splitting of the Sea, and into the Midbar, receiving the Shabbat, being brought to Har Sinai, being given the

Torah, brought into Eretz Yisrael and building the Beit HaMikdash, with G-d's help.

The b'racha of Geula follows that same idea.

Blessed are You, HaShem our God, King of the universe, who has redeemed us and our fathers from Egypt and enabled us to reach this night that we may eat matza and maror.

So HaShem our God and God of our fathers, enable us to reach also the forthcoming holidays and festivals in peace, rejoicing in the rebuilding of Zion Your city, and joyful at Your service. There we shall eat of the offerings and the Pesach sacrifices which will be acceptably placed upon Your altar. We shall sing a new hymn of praise to You for our redemption and for our liberation.

Blessed are You, HaShem, who has redeemed Israel.

This b'racha, which concludes the MAGID portion of the Seder, thanks G-d for taking us out of Egypt - in the first and third paragraph above. But take a good look at the middle paragraph. Pure request for the Complete Redemption - the Geula Sh'leima.

The filling of a fifth cup and singing L'SHANA HABAA BIRUSHALAYIM is also beyond the official range of

events for Pesach. But for us, it is the light at the end of the tunnel of galut, of our long exile.

Chazal, in deciding on the haftara for the Shabbat that comes right before Pesach - Shabbat HaGadol, chose to reveal to us - so to speak - what was denied to Yaakov Avinu - to know what will happen in the future.

**HINEI ANOCHI SHOLEI'ACH LACHEM
EIT ELIYAH HANAVI ...**

HaShem's promise to send us Eliyahu HaNavi and announce the coming of the Geula Sh'leima. And Chazal put this before Pesach. Not after. Not as the haftara of the last day of Pesach. But right up front.

(True, the haftara of the eighth day of Pesach also prophesies the Messianic Era. But we all get the glimpse of what will happen, before we are once again temporarily AVADIM to Par'o.)

The reminders and hints towards the complete Geula in the Hagada are very dear to us. But there is something extra special in the choice of haftara for Shabbat HaGadol. It gives us a healthy and comforting perspective on more than just the Mitzrayim experience; it speaks to us about all of our GALUIYOT and of our GEULA SH'LEIMA, speedily in our time - AMEIN.